

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

AREA CODE EXHAUSTION
AND RELIEF

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)

ADMINISTRATIVE
CASE NO. 373

O R D E R

On August 18, 1998, the Commission ordered a numbering plan area ("NPA") overlay for the 502 area code region of Kentucky to address the depletion of prefixes in that region. Two viable options were considered by the Commission: one was a new area code through a geographic split and the other was an overlay of the entire 502 NPA with a new area code. The Commission selected the latter because no subscribers would have to change their phone numbers, future relief would be much less disruptive since additional overlay area codes could be readily assigned, and the overlay assisted in the accomplishment of one of the goals of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to enable persons to keep their same telephone numbers even when they move from location to location. This is called "local number portability," and it requires ten-digit dialing.

A month after the Commission's decision to require an overlay for Western Kentucky, the North American Numbering Plan Administrator, Lockheed Martin, submitted a request for area code relief in the 606 area code region on behalf of the telecommunications industry in Kentucky. The Commission is reviewing the 606 area

code relief application¹ in light of its decision for the 502 area code region. The 606 area code region does not have the same growth or telephone number depletion rate as the 502 area code region, and, thus, the overlay option is less desirable. The Commission believes that the entire state of Kentucky should utilize the same dialing pattern to reduce confusion.

The Commission has determined that its decision for the 502 area code region should be stayed, pending consideration of public comments. The Commission will conduct public meetings in Louisville, Paducah, Owensboro and Bowling Green. These public meetings will give opportunity for customers, local officials, and others to present their views to the Commission regarding ten-digit local dialing, which is necessary for an overlay of a new area code. Comments also will be received regarding the other option of a geographic split. Of particular concern is the selection of a boundary line for the new 270 area code if the Commission alters its August 18, 1998 decision.

Telephone utilities should take no further action to implement the overlay for the 502 area code, nor should they take further action to implement the consumer education plans which were approved by the Commission in the October 15, 1998 Order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. The August 18, 1998 Order regarding an overlay for the 502 area code is hereby stayed, pending consideration of public comments.
2. The schedule for the public meetings shall be as follows:

¹ Administrative Case No. 377, Area Code Exhaustion Relief for 606 Area Code Region.

Bowling Green

November 5, 1998, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., CST
University Plaza Hotel, Ballroom B
1021 Wilkinson Trace

Paducah

November 5, 1998, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., CST
Executive Inn, International C Room
#1 Executive Boulevard

Owensboro

November 6, 1998, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., CST
Executive Inn, Texas Room
One Executive Boulevard

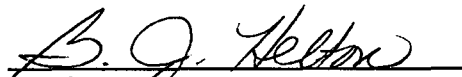
Louisville

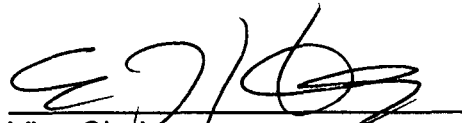
November 12, 1998, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., EST
Commonwealth Convention Center
221 Fourth Avenue

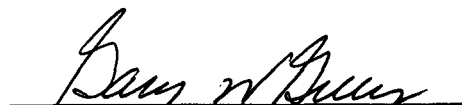
3. Telephone utilities shall take no further action to implement the overlay for the 502 area code region.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 23rd day of October, 1998.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:


Executive Director